

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 166030

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DRAFTED BY: IO/UNESCO:WPO'BRIEN:JU

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166030

NESCO FOR ATTENTION OF HOLLEY MACK BELL

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GUATEMALA, PANAMA,
PARIS, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, USUN NEW YORK,
USIA FROM MANAGUA JUNE 30:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, CS, NU

SUBJECT: UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION

POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN; SAN JOSE,

COSTA RICA; JULY 12-21, 1976

REF: STATE 153675

1. EMB HAS MADE INITIAL INFORMAL SOUNDING OF GON POSITION
ON SAN JOSE UNESCO CONFERENCE THROUGH RIGOBERTO TORUNO, CHIEF
OF FONOFF POLICY PLANNING DEPARTMENT. TORUNO SAID THAT FONOFF
HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE TO FOCUS SHARPLY ON PRINCIPLES AT STAKE
NOR HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO SEND ANYTHING MORE THAN RESIDENT
AMBASSADOR AS DELEGATE. BUT HE OBSERVED THAT PRIOR TO EVOLU-
TION OF CURRENT INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION CHARACTERIZED BY
STATE OF SIEGE AND PRESS CENSORSHIP SINCE DEC. 1974, GON
COULD EASILY HAVE SUPPORTED MORE LIBERAL VIEWPOINT. HE INDICA-
TED, HOWEVER, THAT GON MAY HAVE MOVED TO A MORE CAUTIOUS POSI-
TION AND HINTED FURTHER THAT INTER AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
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(IAPA) IDENTIFICATION WITH FREEDOME OF COMMUNICATION ISSUE

WAS NOT DESIGNED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR GON TO SUPPORT U.S.
VIEW. HE ASKED FOR FORMAL NOTE AND OTHER MATERIAL WHICH WE
ARE FORWARDING.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE CENSORSHIP GON OFFICIALS OFTEN CITE
BENEFITS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AS PART OF NATIONAL LIBERAL
PARTY CREED. THERE IS LESS A GAP BETWEEN PRINCIPLE AND PRAC-
TICE IN THE GON'S SIMILAR ADVOCACY OF FREE ENTERPRISE PRINCI-
PLE, WHICH ALSO SEEMS TO BE AN ISSUE AT STAKE AT SAN JOSE.
WE ARE THEREFORE MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT GON FINAL POSITION.
THEBERGE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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